THE BIG TOP

Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Newsletter Jan/Feb 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Pat "Pattycake" Stevenson
MACA President

Every state in our area just got a blanket of snow especially the Eastern regions when I first started writing this. Hopefully everyone was warm and cozy doing what you like best! Now we are having 60 degree weather….is this a joke?

I am asking each and every officer to compile a short profile for the next Big Top. We were supposed to do that right after convention, but the Holiday Season seemed very busy...so now is the time! Please pass your bio on to the Editor as soon as possible…

And I open this up to all in the membership...If you want your name and bio out there? Send your picture and bio to the editor!

We have ordered badges for all the Board. We are hoping you wear these to "advertise" our organization. Again the holidays seem to have delayed this process at the engraver. We really want the entire membership to be "the face of the organization". Tell your entertainment friends and other clowns WHERE you learned a technique or saw a trick or shared some fun.

Ellen Gagnon is the Membership Committee Chair and will be working with Dave and the current membership to entice clowns everywhere to bring our numbers up!

We have a new Central PA Director! Welcome to Jennifer Miller. She belonged to Kapitol Klowns and lives in New Oxford, PA.

Past President George Caban was an Ohio Director. He was elected to the position of Historian at the 2016 convention. George was honored, but feels he could better serve the membership by being Co – Historian or Secretary to the Historian.

Darlene Morgan will remain our Historian. Daisy has all the paper records, pictures and history of the organization since its inception. George is going to help digitize and organize all the records from the last couple of years when most information was electronic as well as gather "the history" as it is now being made.

Another delay over the holidays was the duplication of the disc of pictures from the convention. If you purchased a disc...it will be mailed as soon as they are received by Merilyn.

Plans are underway for next November, but we want to hear from you now and every day. We want to add education to the fb page and the Big Top. So please, please either post or send me or the editor articles, pictures—step by step teaching moments and learning opportunities!

Be the person who makes someone smile today!

Pat "Patty Cake" Stevenson

Just before this went to press, Feld Entertainment announced that Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus would close. The circus is NOT dead! Clowning is Not dead. Keep the world laughing!

So who is Patty Cake?

I began clowning in 1995/1996. I was asked to face paint at a party and met a white face clown. I decided right away, that I liked clown magic and shows more than face painting. I was sent to one of the original organizers of COA, Lou Walston, and he showed me how to put on the grease. Over the course of a couple years, I evolved into an Auguste, joined COAI, WCA and Freestate Clown Alley. Since I had a 9-5, I was doing shows on week-ends, volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes and doing an occasional corporate event. I eventually was elected Secretary for Freestate. I was then named Boss Clown for the Alley. The Alley has focused on the traditional American Clown which lead several of us to the circus clown. We met several Ringling Clowns along with many from the Mud Shows that come through Maryland and the surrounding areas. Our clown friends have helped so much with makeup, skits, improv, overall skills and presentation. I have entertained on the midway, performed in Zerbini Family circus, was advance clown for Zerbini and traveled to see our friends from Florida to Wisconsin to Massachusetts. This was a natural progression to Circus Fans of America Association. The Alley started the John Ringling North II/Steve and Ryan Tent #178. I am currently the president and try to promote all circus arts. We just got back from Sarasota, to see Mr. North's father inducted into the Circus Ring of Fame, visited with a couple clowns (Jackie LeClaire being just one) and see all the circus events and historic places. I believe you MUST clown from the heart! Two of my favorite audiences are the elderly (assisted living and nursing facilitates) and those that attend ARC and Camp Glow (developmentally disabled). I joined MACA about 10 years ago and immediately became involved with the convention, hosting the hospitality room, doing the decorations, coordinating dinners, doing the programs, mostly while serving as Maryland Director and the last two years as Vice President.

I love being a clown

Bump a nose!

Washer Woman in Zerbini Family Circus with Patty Cake and Diane "Toodles" Jones

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

By Bill "SHOBO" Schober
MACA Chaplain

If it's mid January, you must have broken your News Years resolution by now. Or at least, you stopped one and went to a much easier one. Either way, it's always a good time to reaffirm why you do what you do. After last year's Clown Scare event during the Halloween season, I know I have recommitted myself to be the best I can be, so there can be no doubt what a

Another hat I wear is the World Clown Association Mid- Atlantic Region director. I had some reports from clowns of both physical and verbal threats and request from vendors not to come as clowns. My advice to the reports was the same as what Randy Christensen reported via Video and letter, that we need to show how different we are. Educate yourself better, educate others around you and yet be aware of your surroundings. At Kapo's gang clown alley (yea that's another hat I wear as president) we had a police officer come to a meeting to just give us some tips of awareness and to ease the minds of some of our members. I also had a report of a hospital asking a group not to come for a caring clown event they normally do

Educating your self is the best way to be aware, of the do's and don't in clowning, so next year's theme at the MACA convention is perfect timing.

Clowning totally comes from the heart, but you do need to work at the art. My wish to you, for the rest of the year, is that you get at least one moment to see pure "joy" from a little one's eyes.

Bump a nose,

Shobo

A Clown's Blessing
Author Unknown

May your noses be red and shiny,
And your smile always bright.
May your cheeks be nice and rosy,
Your eyes sparkle in the light.
May your shoes be always too big,
Your costume be perma-pressed,
Your heart overflow with laughter,
Every time your clown is dressed.
May face paint be at the ready,
And your balloons be "easy-blow".
May children run to greet you,

Scholarships

Scholarships are important!

Not only for the recipient for financial reasons but for the learning experiences.

We do not just "give it away"! We ask each applicant to provide information about their current abilities, their performance jobs, their clown group participation and their clowning goals.

We ask the individual to pay the fees upfront to show their dedication to learning and the art of clowning. We expect each to attend as many classes at the convention as possible and prepare for a lifetime of laughter.

There is also an interview. Just a sit down talk about why you want to clown and to go over all that you have presented on your application. If you have any recommendations from other MACA members or the clowning community, make sure you attached the items to your application.

MACA wants to help as many new attendees as they can. Some years there have been no scholarships...some years several. The 2016 year saw two scholarships for two very deserving clowns.

Keyia Nelson is from NJ. Keyia has jumped into the clown world and made friends up and down the coast...Jaquan, Sylvia and Kesha...you know who you are. Keyia was certainly paying attention when she developed her clown face and persona and now applies the grease. Congratulations on your 2016 scholarship!

Tina Coleman is from Millersville, MD. Tina has wanted to be a clown for sometime. She can juggle and has been in several parades including the Miss America Parade last September. Tina jumped into the clown world with her big white patent leathers! She belongs to the Freestate Clown Alley #30 and attended the MACA convention on their urging. Congratulations on your 2016 scholarship!

The learning and scholarship process should be flawless, but it is not...we agonize over the correct scheduling of classes so that we have balanced opportunities. We miss deadlines, we miss communications, but we try very hard. We get immersed in the daily needs of the convention. Message here is "Don't ever give up" on something you really want and pursue your dream.

Be the person who makes someone smile today! **Keep the world laughing!**

MACA CLOWN ALLEY NEWS

Freestate Clown Alley
Presents:

Halloween at the nursing homes

Skootchee and his harem

Toodles, Noodles and T-Bone!

Holiday Parade

Convention time

Holiday Clowning
Arlene "Toodles" Ogurick

BE THE REASON
SOMEONE SMILES

Steve "T-Bone" Carder

Silly Willy and Patty Cake

Steve and Ryan from Christmas Show

Kapo's gang had a Maple Shade police officer come to a meeting right before the MACA clown convention in 2016. We learned a lot about awareness and safety issue we may see while in clown at an event. Not only was it educational but we had a great time. The same night we had a photographer come in to get some great shots of our gang in clown During the fall we were busy with many events and in Dec we got to relax as a group to one of our members homes for the holiday dinner
We look forward to seeing what 2017 will bring.

Bump a Nose,
Kapo's gang

Clown Safety at Kapos

Cop meets Clowns

Fun at Kapos Clowns

Kapos group

Kapos Shoe Sign

AMERICAN HEROES
Saturday Night's Award Banquet

2016 Clownatarian Award Winner– John Kral

Installation of the 2017 MACA Officers

Face Painting Competition

Cheek Art

2nd Place Susan Saunders
3rd place Denise Schroeder

Full Face

1st Place Denise Schroeder
2nd Place Susan Saunders
3rd place Maureen Yalenozian

Makeup Competition

White Face

1st Place
Sayde Sweles

Auguste

2nd Place
Maureen Galenezian

Hobo

2nd Place
Bill Schober

Skit Competition

Single Person Skit

2nd Place
"Favorite Song"
Sandie Smith

3rd Place
"Old Glory"
Mary Sidehammer

"Me Strong" Steve Carder

"Cupcakes"

Group Skit

2nd Place Gone Fishin'

2nd Place Joyce Donaldson, Christina St. Marie

3rd Place Punky Doodles, Peanut

3rd Place Get The Parrot

Fish Market

Single Balloon Competition

1st

2nd

1st Place John Kral
2nd Place Gerald Yurich
3rd Place Denise Schroeder
(Right to left)

3rd

Multiple Balloon Competition

1st

2nd

3rd

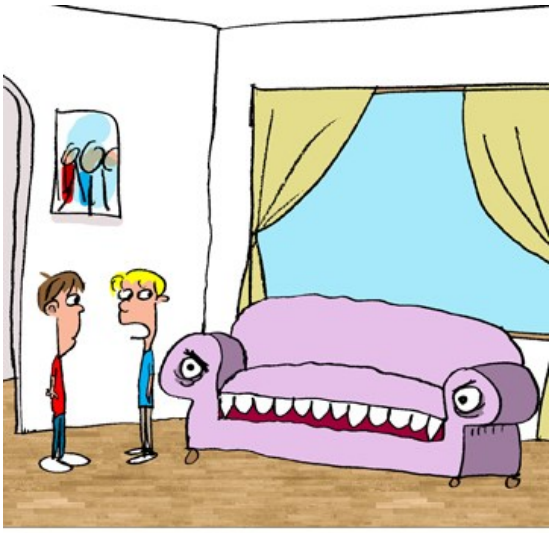
1st Place John Kral
2nd Place Denise Schroeder
3rd Place John Sullivan
(Right to left)

Paradeability

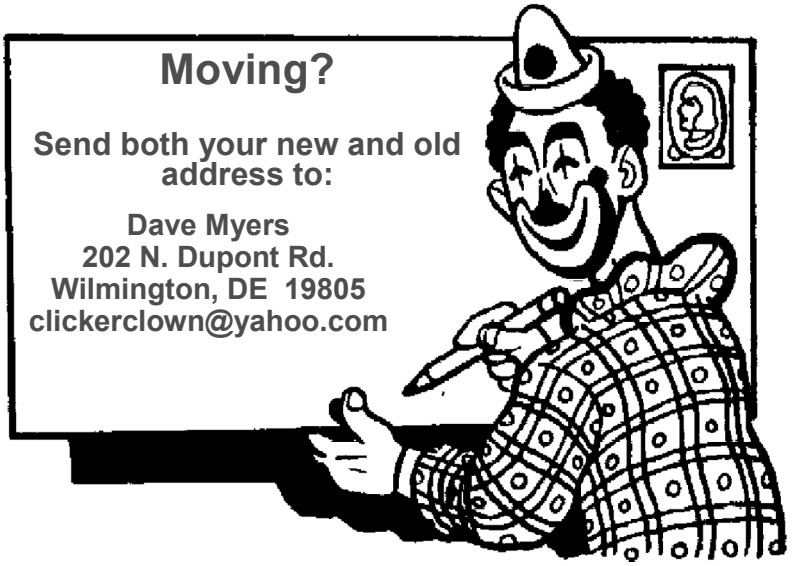
1st Place **Bill Schober - Call The Authorities**

2nd Place **Ron Mount - Stars and Stripes forever**

3rd Place **Gerald Yourich - Free Shoe Shines**



"Whatever you do, don't drop a phone or TV remote in the evil couch. You'll never get them back."



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